May, 1987 acknowledged that the minimum wages should bear a relation to the concept of poverty line and also reiterated the need for periodical revision of minimum wages after a rise of 50 points in Consumer Price Index number or after a lapse of two years, whichever is earlier.

Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati

2572. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total area covered by the Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for the installation of a high power transmission tower at Guwahati in order to enable a large section of people of the State to view local programmes of Guwahati Doordarshan kendra; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The high power (10 KW) transmitter set up at Guwahati provides service to about 18,000 Sq. Kms. area.

(b) No, Sir, as transmitter of Guwahati is already of high power.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of viewers panel at Guwahati

2573. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for introducing viewers panel at Guwahati for concurrent evaluation of Doordarshan programmes; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of poor quality of rice by food Corporation of India to the North Eastern States

2574. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India stock poor quality rice beyond human consumption in several places in Assam and fair price shops refuse to lift their quota of rice from the wholesale co-operative stores and thus cause hardship to the poor section of the people of the State; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the quota of rice to the States of the North Eastern region has been by and large substandard emitting bad smell?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Only such foodgrain stocks including rice which are fit for human consumption are issued by FCI for distribution through fair price shops in North Eastern Region and elsewhere in the country. Foodgrain stocks unfit for human consumption are issued by FCI for cattle feed/poultry feed, industrial use, manurial purposes and dumping only depending upon the extent of damaged kernels present. No report from fair price shops in Assam refusing to lift their quota of rice from the Wholesale Cooperative Stores has been received by the Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies in the recent past.